CAMP WHITE GRENADE II

"Preserving the Past for the Future"

September 2007 Editic

35 Engineer Battalion
Trains at Campwhite

The 35th Engineer Battalion traces its history to the 35th Engineer Combat Regiment, a unit that was first activated on 15 July 1941 at Fort Snelling, Minnesota. After training there, at Camp Joseph Robinson, Arkansas, and at Fort Ord, California, the regiment moved in March 1942 to British Columbia, to work on the Alaskan highway. One of seven engineer regiments working on the highway, the 35th developed the very difficult stretch through the Muskeg of northern British Columbia from Fort Nelson west to a point some 50 miles east of Watson Lake. The 35th also built a 1,270-foot long pile bent bridge across the Liard River for the highway. The battalion was awarded a Meritorious Unit Commendation.

During the Autumn of 1942 and the winter and spring of 1943, the regiment built a winter road from Fort Nelson to Fort Simpson and part of an all season road from Whitehorse to Norman Wells, all on the Mackenzie River. There, American forces were tapping Canadian oil reserves.

Returning to the United States in July and August 1943, the regiment was next stationed at Camp White, Oregon. The regiment was broken up at Camp White on 25 September 1943. Its HQs became the headquarters of the 1122d Engineer Combat Group, and its 1st and 2nd Battalions became the 35th and 145th Engineer Combat Battalions, respectively.

The 35th trained at Camp White until April 1944, and then served in Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, and central Europe campaigns of World War II and received a Croix de guerre from the government of Luxembourg. The battalion returned to the United States in September 1945 and was inactivated on the 17th of that month at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey.

The 35th engineer Battalion was activated in 1951 at Fort Lewis served in Germany & Vietnam with honors.

The 24th Field Hospital

The 24th Field hospital was activated at Camp White Oregon on August 19, 1942. Initially, the cadre consisted of 24 enlisted personnel and one officer. When fully staffed the Field Hospital could perform approximately eighty operations a day. A field hospital platoon supported an infantry division and was usually located at the level of the clearing station. Its function was to operate solely on casualties hit in the chest, abdomen, or large bone of the leg. Of course, other wounds were fixed at the same time, but the idea was to bring major surgery as close to the line as possible. All other casualties followed a route back to the evac hospitals. Each of the field hospital's three platoons consisted of about 60 enlisted men, six nurses, and about a half dozen surgeons.

The first commanding officer of the 24th was 1st Lieutenant Alvin M. Josephs, M. D. By November or 1942, the 24th would have two other commanding officers with Lt. Col. L. B. Hanson, M. D. assuming command on that date.

>Evacuation hospitals had 53 nurses each and could accommodate up to 750 patients. Doctors operated on patients sent from field hospitals. Patients with postoperative stomach wounds were routinely kept in an evacuation hospital ten days before they were sent on, and those with chest wounds were usually kept at least five days before they were evacuated. Critically wounded patients needing specialized treatment were air evacuated to station and general hospitals. Stable patients requiring a long recuperation were sent on via hospital ship. Station and general hospitals advanced more slowly than field and evacuation hospitals and were usually housed in semipermanent locations.

Over 85 percent of those soldiers operated on in field hospitals survived. When postoperative patients grew strong enough, they were transported by ambulance to evacuation hospitals.

The Camp White Hospital was opened on August 19, 1942, it was served by the Medical Division, Service Command Unit 1913. Initially military personnel were treated at the Sacred Heart Hospital in Medford, but on the 24th of July, 1942, temporary buildings were made available for the care of the less serious cases.

When finished, the Station Hospital was the best equipped 1400 bed military medical facility on the west coast and contained more beds than both Medford Hospitals do today. It has been said that it was constructed of brick rather than wood because of the shortage of timber caused by military camp construction throughout the United States. It was also rumored that the brick construction was the result of the military realizing that they would need several hospitals to treat the injured after the war. By April of 1945, casualties were returning from overseas at 1200 a day with 50,000 having returned during the previous 3 months.

A second hospital training facility was located in the north-west corner of the Camp. This was the Evacuation Hospital. It was designed for the tactical units and would train more field hospitals than any other post in the country. One of these, the 20th field hospital' would be honored for it gallantry in the March, 44 issue of Life Magazine. The 20th was cited for it's action on Attu.

SCU 1913 not only staffed the post medical facility but also was involved in the training of the Tactical Hospitals. By August, 1943, these included 81st, 80th, 79th and 83rd General Hospitals, the 316th, 318th Station Hospitals, the 23rd and 24th Field Hospitals, the 45th, 44th, 43rd, 42nd and 41st Portable Surgical Hospitals. Each 1000 bed General Hospital had a compliment of 105 nurses, 55 commissioned officers and 500 enlisted men. Because of the shortage of authorized medical officers assigned to the station hospital, medical personnel from the tactical hospitals were assigned to the Station Hospital and provided medical service as well as serving as teachers in the Station Hospital's medical school.

The 24th would eventually see service in the Pacific Theater serving on Bouganville and Japan

men. Because of the shortage of authorized medical officers assigned to the station hospital, medical personnel from the tactical hospitals were assigned to the Station Hospital and provided medical service as well as serving as teachers in the Station Hospital's medical school.
The 24th would eventually see service in the Pacific Theater serving on Bouganville and Japan

COMANDERS CORNER

I need to take time to thank all of our Members and Volunteers that makes this Museum what it is today. If you are on the internet, check out our WEB site www.campwhite.org also go to one of our links. The Taps list is getting so long. We do not have space to list them, although we honor all of them from our heart.
We are open 10 AM to 3 PM, if you need a special tour on the weekend call AL at 541 826 2111 ex 3674 ahead of time. We are preserving history of Camp White and the units that trained here from 1942 to 1945.
We have pictures from Italy on display of monuments that they maintain for the preservation of History in Italy. Thanks to our Italian Friends in Italy.
If you come in the Museum, buy one of our hats or pins to help support the maintenance of the museum. al

The Grenade 11 is the official Newsletter of the Camp White Historical Association and Museum
Executive Editor.....AL Inlow
Student Editor...Brent Carroll
Layout and production..Marie King
Please Mail all contributions ideas or Appropriate events to P.O. box 2373 White City, Or. 97503

"Let's step it up, Sergeant--we want to get there in time for a long rest."

CAMP WHITE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 2373
White City, Oregon 97503